system **100** utilize **511** individual long codes, while the synchronized base stations within communication system **100** utilize a single, time shifted long code. GIC/LC control **209** determines the current system status, and if the current system status is "synchronized," then GIC/LC control **209** instructs switching circuitry **222** to supply a first long code (LC1, where LC1 is the single long code utilized by synchronized base stations) to spreading circuitry **217, 219**. Additionally, during synchronized operation GICILC control is supplied a "time offset" for LC1 and delays LC1 (via delay circuitry **224**) accordingly. The appropriate system time is GPS time supplied by system status unit **211**. If GIC/LC control **209** determines that the current system status is "unsynchronized," then GIC/LC control **209** supplies a second long code (LC2, where LC2 is chosen from the group of 511 long codes used for unsynchronized systems) to spreading circuitry **217, 219**. After further spreading by spreading circuitry **217, 219**, the resultant signals are summed by summing circuitry **225**, filtered by a transmit filter and amplified by a linear power amplifier **227**, and transmitted to remote unit **113**.

As discussed above, for control channel transmission, the long code sequence is periodically masked over one data symbol interval (short code length) allowing the CSC to periodically appear M times in each long code period. The masking is accomplished by switching circuitry **207**. In particular, when switch **207** is "open," no long code is supplied to spreading circuitry **217**, allowing only the unspread CSC to be input into summing circuitry **225**. As discussed above, remote units **113** within communication system **100** exploit the fact that the GIC periodically appears in the long code to narrow the search range of the long code. During the time period when the CSC is unspread, a GIC is supplied to summing circuitry **225** to be amplified (by amplifier **227**) and transmitted to remote units **113** within communication system **100**. Unlike prior art methods of GIC transmission, GIC/LC control **209** determines a particular GIC to transmit based on the current system status. In particular, if GIC/LC control **209** determines that the current system status is "synchronized," then GIC/LC control **209** instructs switching circuitry **221** to supply a first GIC (GICI) to summing circuitry **225**. If GIC/LC control **209** determines that the current system status is "unsynchronized," then GIC/LC control **209** supplies a second GIC (GIC2) to summing circuitry **225**. As discussed above, to avoid searching through every single long code, the GIC is broadcast indicating a long code group to which the long code of each base station belongs.

FIG. **3** is an illustration of signals transmitted from a base station of FIG. **1** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. During the transmission of LC1 or LC2 (represented by signal **301**), switching circuitry **207** periodically opens, ceasing transmission of LC1 or LC2. The resulting signal (shown as signal **303**) has the CSC periodically appearing during each long code period. During the times when CSC periodically appears, GIC1 or GIC2 is transmitted (signal **305**) from base stations **101, 102**.

FIG. **4** is a flow chart showing operation of the base station of FIG. **1** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The logic flow begins at step **405** where GIC/LC control **209** obtains the current system status and GPS time. In particular, GIC/LC control **209** is supplied the current system status (synchronized/unsynchronized) by system status/GPS time supply **211**. Next, at step **410** GIC/LC control **209** determines if the system status has changed. If, at step **410** GIC/LC control **209** determines that the system status has changed (i.e.,

synchronized to unsynchronized or unsynchronized to synchronized) then the logic flow continues to step **415**, otherwise the logic flow returns to step **405**. At step **415** GIC/LC control **209** determines if the base station is operating in a synchronized mode, and if so, the logic flow continues to step **420**. At step **420** GIC/LC control **209** manipulates switching circuitry **221** to pass a first GIC to switching circuitry **207**. In particular, at step **420** switching circuitry **221** passes GIC1 to switching circuitry **207**. Next, at step **425**, GIC/LC control **209** manipulates switching circuitry **222** to pass a first long code (LC1) to switching circuitry **207**. In addition, at step **425** GIC/LC control appropriately delays (via delay circuitry **224**) the first long code a predetermined amount for proper base station identification. The logic flow continues to step **440**.

Returning to step **415**; if GIC/LC control **209** determines that the base station is not operating in a synchronized mode the logic flow continues to step **430** where switching circuitry **221** passes a second GIC (GIC2) to switching circuitry **207**. Next, at step **435**, GIC/LC control **209** manipulates switching circuitry **222** to pass a second long code (LC1) to switching circuitry **207**. The logic flow continues to step **440**. At step **440** switching circuitry **207** periodically masks the current long code sequence over one data symbol interval, while simultaneously broadcasting the current GIC.

Supplying the current GIC in such a way to indicate whether the base station is operating in a synchronized or an unsynchronized mode allows remote units acquiring base stations to vary their searching algorithm based on the communication system's synchronization status. Thus remote units will vary their searching algorithm based on the base station's synchronization status, allowing remote units to operate with synchronized base stations yet be able to operate in geographic areas where accurate time synchronization is unavailable, or continue to operate when time synchronization fails.

FIG. **5** is a flow chart illustrating operation of the remote unit of FIG. **1** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The logic flow begins at step **501** where remote unit **113** accesses available control channels (CCHs) to determine a base station with a strongest control channel. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, base stations within communication system **100** continuously broadcast a control channel (via downlink communication signal **116**) that is utilized by remote unit **113** in accessing communication system **100**. Once remote unit **113** has determined a base station having a strongest control channel (in this case, base station **101**), the logic flow continues to step **505** where remote unit determines a particular long code being utilized by base station **101**. As discussed above, remote unit **113** detects the long code timing by searcher **131**. Searcher **131** searches for the periodically appearing CSC masked over the long code to determine the phase of the long code. Once the long code phase has been detected, searcher **131** receives the GIC, indicating the group of long codes (e.g., group 1 (GIC1)) to which the base station's long code belongs. The logic flow continues to step **510** where searcher **131** accesses GIC data base **114** to determine if base station **101** is operating in a synchronized mode. If at step **510**, remote unit **113** determines that base station **101** is operating in a synchronized mode, then the logic flow continues to step **515** where remote unit **113** searches the entire length of a single long code utilized for all synchronized base stations within communication system **100**. If at step **510** remote unit **113** determines that base station **101** is not operating in a synchronized mode, then the logic flow continues to step